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The Javits Lesson

Sen. Javits has won a spectacular victory in his fight for reelection. He ran well ahead of Gov. Rockefeller; the dimensions of his triumph extend far beyond the boundaries of the state.

When James Donovan, his Democratic-Liberal opponent tried to impeach him on the extraordinary ground that he was a fellow traveler of the Democrats, he did not panic. He had the valor to reaffirm his independence and declare it a political virtue. His victory demonstrates that most New York voters respond best to Republicans who respect the tradition of Theodore Roosevelt and Wendell Willkie.

Let there also be a clear lesson for New York Democrats in this engagement. Their

nominee's effort to woo right-wing voters was a disastrous failure; it was new, devastating proof that voters who seek a reactionary candidate will not vote for him on the Democratic or Liberal line.

We do not seek to minimize the scope of Mr. Javits' triumph by citing the failure of his opponent. This was a big win; it must surely strengthen Mr. Javits' voice in the Senate, and especially among his Republican colleagues.

He has too long been treated by his GOP associates as an irregular who should be seen but not heard. His impressive success should give him an infinitely larger voice in his party's councils, and even within that group known as the "Senate Club."